<u>What Is Claimed Is:</u>

1   1.   A method for translating a message of a first protocol received by a first driver to a

2   second protocol transmitted by a second driver, comprising:

3   converting the message received by the first driver to an independent format;

4   transmitting the message from the first driver to a second driver via a message handler;

5   and

6   converting the message received by the second driver in the independent format to the

7   second protocol; where

8   the first driver and the second driver are located in a vehicle and the first protocol is a

9   vehicular protocol; and

10   the second protocol is a wireless link.

1   2.   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2   receiving the message from the first driver by a message dispatcher before transmitting

3   the message to a message handler, wherein the message dispatcher selects the message handler

4   from a set of one or more message handlers by consulting a database.

1   3.   The method of claim 2, further comprising:

2   receiving the message from the message handler by a multiplexer before transmitting the

3   message to the second driver;

1   4.   The method of claim 3, wherein the multiplexer utilizes a network configuration unit for

2   at least one of system startup, maintenance, and dynamic reconfiguration.

1 5.   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2   performing a manipulation on the message in the message handler.

1 6.   The method of claim 5, wherein the manipulation includes at least one of packet

2 translation or interaction with a computer application.

1 7.   The method of claim 1, further comprising transmitting the message from the second

2 driver to a third driver

1 8.   The method of claim 3, wherein the multiplexer is a network multiplexer.

1 9.   The method of claim 2, wherein the database is a rules database.

1 10.   The method of claim 1, further comprising transmitting the message from the second

2 driver to the third driver in the second protocol by wireless communication.

1 11.   The method of claim 1, wherein the first protocol is a Controller Area Network protocol.

1 12.   The method of claim 1, wherein the second protocol is a Bluetooth protocol.

1 13.   The method of claim 10, wherein the message received by the third driver is translated

2 back to the first protocol and received by a fourth driver.

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1 14. The method of claim 10, wherein a remote application in communication with the third

2 driver is capable of receiving the message.

1 15. The method of claim 14, wherein the remote application is capable of either passively

2 receiving the message or initiating a transmission from the third driver back to the second driver

3 for translation and receipt at the first driver in the first protocol.

1 16. The method of claim 15, wherein the third driver is unable to communicate with the

2 second driver unless the third driver adheres to predefined transmission rules and transmits

3 messages from only a predefined group of possible messages.

1 17. A system for translating a message of a first protocol to a second protocol, comprising:

2   a first driver to receive the message of the first protocol and convert the message to an

3 independent format;

4   a message handler to receive said message from said first driver; and

5   a second driver to receive said message from said message handler and to convert the

6 message received in the independent format to the second protocol; where

7   the first driver and the second driver are located in a vehicle and the first protocol is a

8 vehicular protocol; and

9   the second protocol is a wireless link.

1 18. The system of claim 17, further comprising:

2   a message dispatcher to receive the message from the first driver before transmitting the

3   message to the message handler, wherein the message dispatcher is adapted to the message

4   handler from a set of one or more message handlers by consulting a database.

1   19.   The system of claim 18, wherein a multiplexer is to receive the message from the

2   message handler before transmitting the message to the second driver;

1   20.   The system of claim 19, wherein the multiplexer is to utilize a network configuration unit

2   for at least one of system startup, maintenance, and dynamic reconfiguration.

1   21.   The system of claim 17, wherein the message handler is to perform a manipulation on the

2   message.

1   22.   The system of claim 21, wherein the manipulation includes at least one of packet

2   translation and interaction with a computer application.

1   23.   The system of claim 17, further comprising a third driver coupled to the second driver.

1   24.   The system of claim 19, wherein the multiplexer is a network multiplexer.

1   25.   The system of claim 18, wherein the database is a rules database.

1   26.   The system of claim 17, wherein the message is transmitted from the second driver to a

2   third driver in the second protocol by wireless communication.

1   27.   The system of claim 17, wherein the first protocol is a Controller Area Network protocol.

1   28.   The system of claim 17, wherein the second protocol is a Bluetooth protocol.

1   29.   The system of claim 26, wherein the message received by the third driver is translated

2   back to the first protocol and received by a fourth driver.

1   30.   The system of claim 26, wherein a remote application in communication with the third

2   driver is capable of receiving the message.

1   31.   The system of claim 30, wherein the remote application is capable of either passively

2   receiving the message or initiating a transmission from the third driver back to the second driver

3   for translation and receipt at the first driver in the first protocol.

1   32.   The system of claim 32, wherein the third driver is unable to communicate with the

2   second driver unless the third driver adheres to predefined transmission rules and transmits

3   messages from only a predefined group of possible messages.

1   33.   A system for translating a message of a Controller Area Network protocol to a Bluetooth

2   protocol, comprising:

3   a first driver to receive the message of the Controller Area Network protocol and convert

4   the message to an independent format;

5   a message handler to receive said message from said first driver;

6   a second driver to receive said message from said message handler and to convert the

7   message received in the independent format to the Bluetooth protocol;

8   a message dispatcher to receive the message from the first driver before transmitting the

9   message to the message handler, wherein the message dispatcher is adapted to the message

10   handler from a set of one or more message handlers by consulting a rules database; and

11   a third driver coupled to the second driver;

12   where

13   the first driver and the second driver are located in a vehicle;

14   a network multiplexer is to receive the message from the message handler before

15   transmitting the message to the second driver;

16   the network multiplexer is to utilize a network configuration unit for at least one of

17   system startup, maintenance, and dynamic reconfiguration;

18   the message handler is to perform a manipulation on the message that includes at least

19   one of packet translation and interaction with a computer application;

20   the message is transmitted from the second driver to the third driver in the Bluetooth

21   protocol by wireless communication; and

22   a remote application in communication with the third driver is capable of either passively

23   receiving the message or initiating a transmission from the third driver back to the second driver

24   for translation and receipt at the first driver in the Controller Area Network protocol.